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Cable Advisory Minutes 03/23/2006

Selectmen's Cable Television Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting of March 23, 2006

Meeting began @ 7:05 p.m. in the Selectmen's chambers, 2nd floor, Town Hall

Members present – Phil McCarthy, Paul Berg (7:20), Jim Walsh and Mike Quinn

Also present – John Maher, Brian Sullivan, Bill Solomon, Glenn Koenig, Cathy Colwell, Steve Galeotalanza, Paul West and John Leone.

The draft minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2006 were VOTED (3-0) approved on motion of Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Quinn.

Mr. McCarthy briefed the committee of the meeting with Jeff Hall, Comcast and RCN technicians, Jane Lyman, Glenn Koenig and the negotiating team to determine how the transition from Comcast carriage to RCN carriage of PEG emanations could be best accomplished. He advised that Jeff's alternate proposal to Implement Video Transport Over Existing Data Network at an estimated cost of \$56,000.00 was favored and that Comcast had agreed to fund it as a buy out of their I-Net system with a few locations to be continued to be carried over Comcasts lines. He further advised of not making too much progress in the negotiating session with Comcast's Tim Murnane and Nick Lucci which took place on Jan. 23, 2006.

The committee was briefed on all points we have agreed to by Bill Solomon. 5% of gross cable television revenue annually for PEG operations with an \$80,000.00 advance; PEG access/ed. tech capital funding of \$400,000.00 over the term with \$100K to be paid within 30 days of renewal and the balance in annual installments of \$33,333.00; a partial I-Net buy out with a grant in the amount of \$56,000.00; a 3rd PEG channel to be made available within 180 days but in no event later than one year; reimbursement of up to \$3500.00 dollars for channel relocation expenses; a limited local emergency alert override capability; cable service to public buildings; studio and PEG access turnover to ACMI within 60 days, discount for financially qualified seniors over 65 and a level playing field provision acceptable to both parties.

On motion of Mr. Berg, seconded by Mr. Quinn it was VOTED (4-0) that the committee recommend to the BoS for their March 27, 2006 meeting that they enter unto a MoU with Comcast documenting the agreed to major points and that we move forward to finalize a draft renewal license.

The committee discussed briefly the just received draft agreement from ACMI setting forth the contract between the Town and ACMI for the provision of PEG services and the funding mechanisms to support those services. It was agreed that a meeting would be held at 7p.m. on April 6, 2006 to further discuss ACMI's draft agreement. Mr. McCarthy advised that he would most likely not be able to make that meeting and requested that Mr. Chebator chair, if present and if not Mr. Berg.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.